

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) Sonotrode for an ultrasonic welding device and having a longitudinal axis, said sonotrode comprising:

a body portion;

a head portion of rectangular cross-section in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and comprising at least one planar working surface for welding metal which is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, a front surface which is substantially perpendicular to the at least one working surface, and a back surface, and an intermediate tapered portion which joins the back surface to the body portion,

the sonotrode transferring ultrasonic vibrations in the direction of the longitudinal axis,

wherein the front surface comprises at least one reinforcement for reducing deflection of the at least one working surface, the reinforcement exhibiting ~~triangular geometry or curved and protruding geometry in a section of the longitudinal axis~~ a continuously changing curve protruding over the entire width of the front surface and having a maximal extension (d) of 3-25 mm over the front surface, and being shaped symmetrically with respect to a symmetry plane in which the longitudinal axis runs.

29. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement is a rib.

30. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement increases in height over the front surface from a peripheral edge of the front surface at the at least one working surface, in the direction of the longitudinal axis.

31. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement runs perpendicular to the at least one working surface.

32. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement is shaped in a linear manner.

33. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement projects from the entire, or substantially entire, front surface.

34. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement is bead-like or beam-like.

35. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the sonotrode is reinforced in such a way that, with ultrasonic excitation, deflection a_x of the sonotrode, acts in the direction of its longitudinal axis by deflecting a_y perpendicular to the working surface, where $3 \leq a_x / a_y \leq 20$.

36. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the maximal extension (d) is 5-15 mm.

37. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the maximal extension (d) is 10 mm.

38. (new) Sonotrode according to claim 28, wherein the reinforcement is unitary in structure with the sonotrode head.